AFFILIATED WITH nj.com $2 STATE EDITION THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020

The Star-Ledger

IMPEACHMENT THE FINAL VOTE

Split Senate acquits President Trump

Not guilty: President cleared of abuse and obstruction charges

Partisan verdict: GOP's Romney the sole lawmaker to break ranks

Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

President Donald Trump won impeachment acquittal Wednesday in the U.S. Senate, bringing to a close only the third presidential trial in American history with votes that split the country, tested civic norms and fed the tumultuous 2020 race for the White House.

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, senators sworn to do "impartial justice" stood at their desks to state their votes for the roll call — "guilty" or "not guilty" — in a swift tally almost exclusively along party lines.

Visitors, including the president's allies, watched from the crowded gallery. Roberts read the declaration that Trump "be, and is hereby, acquitted of the charges."

The outcome Wednesday followed months of remarkable impeachment proceedings, from Speaker Nancy Pelosi's House to Mitch McConnell's Senate, reflecting the nation's unrelenting partisan divide three years into the Trump presidency.

What started as Trump's request for Ukraine to "do us a favor" spun into a far-reaching, 28,000-page report compiled by House investigators accusing an American president of engaging in shadow diplomacy that threatened U.S. foreign relations for personal, political gain as he pressured the ally to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden ahead of the next election.

No president has ever been removed by the Senate.

A politically emboldened Trump has eagerly predicted vindication, deploying the verdict as an anthem in his reelection bid. The president claims he did nothing wrong, decrying the "witch hunt" and "hoax" as extensions of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into Russian 2016 campaign interference by those out to get him from the start of his presidency.

Trump's political campaign tweeted videos, statements and a cartoon dance celebrating that he was "vindicated." Trump himself tweeted that he would speak from the White House today about "our Country's VICTORY on the Impeachment Hoax."

The Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said there will always be "a giant asterisk next to the president's acquittal" because of the Senate's quick trial and the Republicans' rejection of witnesses.

A majority of senators expressed unease with Trump's pressure campaign on Ukraine that resulted in the two articles of

SEE TRUMP, A4

President Donald Trump appears outside the White House on Wednesday. The U.S. Senate voted Wednesday afternoon to acquit the president of charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. *Evan Vucci, Associated Press*

How they voted

On mostly party-line votes, the Senate has acquitted President Donald Trump of two charges brought by the House, falling well short of the two-thirds majority needed to convict and remove him from office.

Article I: Abuse of power

Guilty	Not Guilty
48	52

67 to convict

	Guilty	Not Guilty
Democrats	45	0
Republicans	1	52
Independents	2	0

Republican Mitt Romney of Utah joined Democrats to vote to convict Trump on the abuse of power count.

Article II: Obstruction of Congress

Guilty	Not Guilty
47	53

67 to convict

	Guilty	Not Guilty
Democrats	45	0
Republicans	0	53
Independents	2	0

Source: U.S. Senate

POLITICS

DNC fires 2 Murphy allies over allegations of toxicity

Brent Johnson *For The Star-Ledger*

Two longtime top allies of Gov. Phil Murphy have been fired from their jobs helping organize the upcoming Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee over allegations they fostered a "toxic and unstable working environment."

Liz Gilbert and Adam Alonso — who worked on Murphy's 2017 campaign and later for New Jersey's Democratic Party — have been terminated from their posts leading the host committee for July's convention, the committee's board of directors said in a statement late Tuesday night.

Initially, the board said Monday it sidelined Gilbert and Alonso from their jobs as it launched an investigation after the allegations surfaced.

The board said Gilbert, the committee's president, would not be in the office, and Alonso, the committee's chief of staff, was placed on administrative leave.

On Tuesday, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported that the investigation was sparked after senior women who worked on the committee sent a letter on Jan. 30 to the board saying Alonso "bullied and intimidated" them and that Gilbert "enabled" the behavior.

The board fired the pair just hours after that newspaper published that letter, ending two days of escalating drama.

SEE FIRED, A8

INSIDE

Kirk Douglas dies at 103

The actor, whose career spanned more than 60 years and included movies such as "Spartacus," died Wednesday. **A2**

Business, 17 **Classified**, B7 **Comics**, A33 **Editorial**, A20 **Health**, H1 **Obituaries**, A13 **Puzzles**, A28 **Sports**, B1 **Today**, A27 **TV Grid**, A32 **World News**, A4

8 14186 00100 9 06420